

# Gunshot & Sharp Instrument Cases, MA Residents, 1994-2005

Injury Cases Reported by Hospital Emergency Departments to the Weapon Related Injury Surveillance System <sup>1</sup>

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Number of Injury Cases Reported</b>												
Gunshot Wounds	980	828	666	544	520	533	512	603	636	760	790	889
Sharp Instrument Wounds <sup>2</sup>	1885	1684	1553	1353	1253	1287	1312	1361	1264	1220	1219	1356
<b>TOTAL CASE COUNT</b>	<b>2865</b>	<b>2512</b>	<b>2219</b>	<b>1897</b>	<b>1773</b>	<b>1820</b>	<b>1824</b>	<b>1964</b>	<b>1900</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2245</b>
<b>Rate per 100,000 residents</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>34.9</b>
<b>Injury Intent by Gun Type</b>												
Assault-related	662	526	393	312	318	375	328	379	400	479	486	579
Firearms	625	503	337	270	291	339	286	335	343	402	420	507
Nonpowder guns (e.g., bb/pellet gun)	37	20	43	25	20	30	34	42	48	69	62	72
Other gun type	0	3	13	17	7	6	8	2	9	8	4	0
Unintentional/accidental	163	155	166	158	117	94	130	138	145	174	213	196
Firearms	69	65	55	56	44	25	29	20	28	20	37	22
Nonpowder guns (e.g., bb/pellet gun)	92	86	108	96	71	64	94	114	114	154	174	170
Other gun type	2	4	3	6	2	5	7	4	3	0	2	4
Intentional Self-Inflicted <sup>3</sup>	47	47	35	26	31	26	21	26	15	27	16	16
Firearms	44	43	32	22	30	24	20	23	15	24	13	13
Nonpowder guns (e.g., bb/pellet gun)	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	3	0	3	3	3
Other gun type	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Intent is Unknown/Unspecified	108	100	72	48	54	38	33	60	76	80	75	98
Firearms	82	68	53	30	42	25	14	31	43	48	49	59
Nonpowder guns (e.g., bb/pellet gun)	26	32	17	16	11	13	16	28	31	31	26	39
Other gun type	0	0	2	2	1	0	3	1	2	1	0	0
<b>TOTAL GUN COUNT</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>889</b>
<b>Rate per 100,000 residents</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>13.9</b>
<b>Firearm Injury Cases ONLY</b>												
<b>TOTAL FIREARM COUNT</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>601</b>
<b>Rate per 100,000 residents</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>9.4</b>
<b>ASSAULT-RELATED FIREARM COUNT</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>507</b>
<b>Rate per 100,000 residents</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>7.9</b>
<b>UNINTENTIONAL FIREARM COUNT</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Rate per 100,000 residents</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Non-Powder Guns (e.g., BB, pellet guns)</b>												
<b>TOTAL NON-POWDER GUN COUNT</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>284</b>
<b>Rate per 100,000 residents</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>ASSAULT Injury Cases ONLY</b>												
Sharp Instrument Wounds	1885	1684	1553	1353	1253	1287	1312	1361	1264	1220	1219	1356
Gunshot Wounds	662	526	393	312	318	375	328	379	400	479	486	579
<b>TOTAL ASSAULT COUNT</b>	<b>2547</b>	<b>2210</b>	<b>1946</b>	<b>1665</b>	<b>1571</b>	<b>1662</b>	<b>1640</b>	<b>1740</b>	<b>1664</b>	<b>1699</b>	<b>1705</b>	<b>1935</b>
<b>Rate per 100,000 residents</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>30.2</b>

**Source:** Weapon Related Injury Surveillance System, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

•Cases are defined as:

- a. any gunshot wound treated in a hospital emergency department (e.g., firearm, non-powder gun, other gun), or
- b. a sharp instrument wound intentionally inflicted by another person or sustained during a violent incident

•All cases reported regardless of subsequent disposition are included in the counts (e.g., admitted, died, discharged, etc.).

•Counts do not reflect deaths that are not first transported to a hospital emergency department for treatment.

•Rates are calculated based on population estimates developed by the MA Institute for Statistics on Economic Research (1994-1998),

the MA Department of Public Health (1999) and the U.S. Census Bureau (2000, 2001-2004 estimates).

<sup>1</sup> Based on past record reviews, the statewide hospital reporting level is estimated to be between 70 and 80%.

<sup>2</sup> WRISS captures gun-related injuries of any intent, but only sharp instrument wounds of an assaultive nature.

<sup>3</sup> Most intentional self-inflicted firearm injuries result in death. They are less likely to be treated in an ED and consequently less likely to be captured by WRISS.